

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 29-38, 40-43, 45, 49, 50 and 55-58 are presently pending in this application, Claim 39 having been canceled, Claims 32-38, 40-43, 45 and 49 having been amended, and Claims 55-58 having been newly added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 39 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite; Claims 32-33, 35, 40-43 & 45/32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by French Publication 2,720,145 (hereinafter "FR '145"); Claims 32, 35-36, 39-40, 42 & 45/32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Marx (U.S. Patent 3,425,147); Claims 29-43, 45/29-31 & 49-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bickford (U.S. Patent 4,117,614) in view of Marx; Claim 49 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over FR '145; and Claims 33 & 49-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marx.

Claim 39 has been canceled in response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 32-38, 40-43, 45 and 49 have been amended herein. These claim amendments are believed to find clear support in the claims, specification, and drawings as originally filed.¹

Newly added Claims 55-58 are believed to find clear support in the original disclosure. For example, Claims 55-58 are believed to be supported similar to Claims 29-32, and the

¹ See, for example, Specification, Fig. 2a.

support for a refrigerated installation is found in the title. Hence, no new matter is believed to be added thereby.

Briefly recapitulating, Claim 29 of the present invention is directed to a refrigerator shelf including at least one support panel formed of at least one sheet of glass or plastic, the at least one support panel having a plurality of corners, and a plurality of coverpieces including a plurality of cornerpieces each positioned to cover one of the plurality of corners of the at least one support panel, wherein the plurality of cornerpieces covers an entire periphery of the at least one support panel when assembled, and at least one of the plurality of coverpieces is attached to the at least one support panel via at least one internal relief provided on the at least one of the plurality of coverpieces, thereby allowing the at least one of the plurality of coverpieces to be anchored in at least one groove made on the at least one support panel.

FR '145 discloses a shelf for use in a refrigeration appliance. Nevertheless, FR '145 does not teach "a plurality of coverpieces including a plurality of cornerpieces each positioned to cover one of the plurality of corners of the at least one support panel, wherein the plurality of cornerpieces covers an entire periphery of the at least one support panel when assembled, and at least one of the plurality of coverpieces is attached to the at least one support panel via at least one internal relief provided on the at least one of the plurality of coverpieces, thereby allowing the at least one of the plurality of coverpieces to be anchored in at least one groove made on the at least one support panel" as recited in Claim 29. On the other hand, FR '145 simply discloses the frame portions 1 attached to the shelf 8.² FR '145 fails to teach covering of the entire periphery, fitting together or sliding in another one of the coverpieces, and as many cornerpieces as corners or each cornerpiece covering only one

² FR '145, Fig. 2.

corner. Therefore, the structure recited in Claim 29 is believed to be clearly distinguishable from FR '145.

Marx and Bickford disclose a picture frame. It is, however, respectfully submitted that neither Marx nor Bickford teaches "a plurality of coverpieces including a plurality of cornerpieces each positioned to cover one of the plurality of corners of the at least one support panel, wherein the plurality of cornerpieces covers an entire periphery of the at least one support panel when assembled, and at least one of the plurality of coverpieces is attached to the at least one support panel via at least one internal relief provided on the at least one of the plurality of coverpieces, thereby allowing the at least one of the plurality of coverpieces to be anchored in at least one groove made on the at least one support panel" as recited in Claim 29. Marx is not believed to disclose any cornerpiece. The corner can be reasonably defined by the crossing of two lines. In the Marx apparatus, each covering piece is parallel to only one line, and there is no piece overlapping two crossing lines. Bickford merely discloses a picture frame and is not believed to teach anchoring of coverpieces. In addition, Bickford is related to a completely different technical field where the requirements are not the same. For example, security regulations are not the same between a display frame for pictures and a shelf for carrying many articles (among which heavy ones) in special temperature conditions, and such a shelf should be very resistant to shocks (mechanical, thermal, etc.). It is respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art will not look for a solution to a problem in its specific field in a field with such different requirements. In this case, a skilled person will not consider replacing inadequate shelves in the refrigerator by display shelves. Therefore, the structure recited in Claim 29 is believed to be clearly distinguishable from Marx and Bickford.

Because none of FR '145, Marx and Bickford discloses the plurality of coverpieces as recited in Claim 29, even the combined teachings of these cited references are not believed to render the structure recited in Claim 29 obvious.

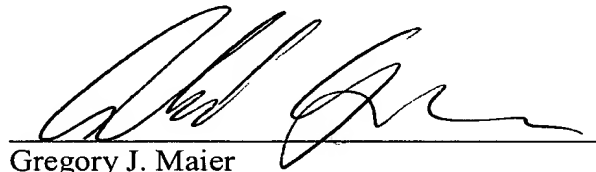
Likewise, independent Claims 30-32, 49 and 55-58 include subject matter substantially similar to what is recited in Claim 29 to the extent discussed above. Thus, Claim 30-32, 49 and 55-58 are also distinguishable from FR '145, Bickford and Marx.

For the foregoing reasons, Claims 30-32, 49 and 55-58 are believed to be allowable. Furthermore, since Claims 33-38, 40-43, 45, and 50 depend ultimately from one of Claims 29-32 and 49, substantially the same arguments set forth above also apply to these dependent claims. Hence, Claims 33-38, 40-43, 45, and 50 are believed to be allowable as well.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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